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FOREIGN NEWS ON GOATS AND MOHAIR

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PROSPECTS FOR REDUCED MOHAIR CLIPS IN TURKEY AND
THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN 1928

A probable reduction in the 1928 mohair clips of Turkey and the Union of South Africa is indicated by reports received by the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In the Union of South Africa the clip was adversely affected by prolonged drought. During the first part of April floods occurred in the angora districts, which caused some mortality among goats and delayed shearing of the current clip. These floods, however, have improved prospects greatly for the following (1929) clip. In Turkey, the 1928 clip will probably be somewhat smaller than last year, according to a report from Assistant Trade Commissioner Erwin P. Keeler, dated April 6, 1928.

The prospects for the current clip in the Union of South Africa are none too favorable, but the floods reported in the "Wool Record and Textile World" of April 12, 1928 have improved conditions so that the prospects for the kidding season in September are excellent and the outlook is for an increased kid supply in 1929 and an increased supply of firsts in 1930. The 1927 clip, the smallest in years, was estimated at 11,000,000 pounds compared with 12,000,000 pounds in 1926. The number of angora goats in the Union on June 30, 1927 was officially estimated at 1,499,000 compared with 2,137,000 in August 1925, and 4,194,000 in 1913. The reduction in numbers in recent years has been due to adverse weather conditions and the fact that many angora goat raisers have shifted over to merino sheep as wool has been enjoying a better market than mohair the last few years. There has been a downward tendency in angora goat numbers since 1913. However, the mohair industry in Great Britain, South Africa's most important market, improved considerably in 1927, and this improvement may stimulate more interest in the South African goat raising industry.

In Turkey there have been persistent rumors of a heavy death rate among Anatolian flocks since February, according to the April "Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States". The loss is now estimated at over 20 per cent owing to the insufficiency of fodder. The drought of last summer and autumn has been followed by an extremely severe and long winter and apparently the peasants were unable to lay in a sufficient stock of feed. As a consequence, a smaller clip is to be expected during the next two years. The 1928 clip is due on the market this month and is expected to be somewhat smaller than the 1927 clip, which was estimated by the trade at 8,800,000 pounds compared with approximately 7,040,000 pounds in 1926. Angora goats numbered 2,761,000 in Turkey in 1926 against 2,560,000 in 1925 and 1,610,000 in 1923. Stocks of mohair on hand at the end of March were estimated at a little over 400,000 pounds compared with approximately 880,000 pounds last year at the same date.

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